Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Project Profile OHIO

Updated: March 20, 2001

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Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program		
Focus Areas Funded	 Preparedness Planning and Readiness Assessment Surveillance and Epidemiology – Core Activities Laboratory Capacity - Biological Agents Health Alert Network 	
Ohio has strengthened its capacity to respond to threats of bioterrorism by:	 Forming partnerships with emergency management, law enforcement, firefighters, local health departments and other key partners; Developing modular training in CD/disk format and manuals; Developing fact sheets on biological and chemical agents to be used post-incident; Implementing a fully-operational disease on call system; Completing a multi-agency directory of emergency resources and contacts; Establishing rapid fax capabilities to local health jurisdictions, laboratories and infection control practitioners; Developing a training plan on how to investigate a covert biological incident; Completing a needs assessment for implementation of an electronic disease surveillance system; Conducting numerous presentations regarding disease surveillance, bioterrorism issues, and table top exercises; Integrating testing protocols into the laboratory procedure manual; and, Producing a video detailing the process of sample receipt. This video describes the role of the laboratory in response to bioterrorism and has been used in various presentations. 	
Project Year 2 Plans (August 31, 2000-August 30, 2001) include:	 Updating the surveillance and epidemiology response plan; Proceeding with plans to implement an electronic disease surveillance system; Updating the standard operating guidelines for the infectious disease on-call group; Publishing guidelines on how to investigate possible bioterrorist events; Developing collaborative surveillance projects, such as sentinel surveillance, selected active surveillance, and others; Conducting in-service training and grand rounds on bioterrorism preparedness to health care providers; Completing a training needs assessment that includes technology 	

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- capacity and coordinates distance learning technology and a curriculum plan for delivery;
- Developing a system to track training and capacity issues at the local level;
- Enhancing laboratory capabilities to rapidly detect and identify biological agents that could be used in a terrorist event; and,
- Developing a state tabletop exercise to implement ICS strategies and exercise the state response plan within the state health department and in conjunction state partners.

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Contact Information

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3/21/2001